

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS**



LOCAL 99

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.
Business Manager

Wayne A. Tait
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February 27, 2024

Representative Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
RI State House
HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov

RE: Support for HB-7225, Article 5: AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025

Dear Chairman Abney,

As Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 99, I represent 800 Women and Men who provide their skills to my signatory contractors in the Electrical Industry within the State of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts.

I am writing to you today to express my **strong support for HB-7225 Article 5** as it relates to the State Archive General Obligation Bond.

Rhode Island has a colorful history that must be preserved and shared. Regardless if we are speaking of the conversations at Sabin's Tavern that ended in the burning of the revenue cutter Gaspee, being the first Colony to declare independence from England but the last to ratify, the Dorr Rebellion, Triangle Trade, the Saylesville Massacre, or the Macaroni Riots, it is our history both good and bad. Sometimes the moments were incredibly proud and others beyond shameful but when the quill was put to parchment, the stories came alive as tools of discovery, tools of learning, and guideposts of the paths to travel or to avoid.

I understand the cost for this project may appear considerable; however, we must realize there is no amount of money that can ever allow us to revisit the past. It is only through preservation and exploration of the historical record that we can understand how we arrived where we are today. That indisputable reality has wealth beyond measure.

In closing, I wish again to stress my **strong support** for the funding for the State Archives via the GO Bond in Article 5 of HB-7225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Walsh, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph L. Walsh, Jr. / Business Manager

Cc:
House Finance Clerk
Committee Members
Alvin Reyes / Local 99 Membership Development Coordinator